



COON RAPIDS *Connection*

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4th of July

Community Celebration

Don't miss your chance to be a part of this fun Coon Rapids tradition! Mark your calendars and plan to come out to the annual 4th of July celebration. Community events include a carnival, parade, fireworks, bingo, pull tabs and other fun activities. All events are held at Sand Creek Park located at 1008 Northdale Boulevard.

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Tuesday, August 5, 2014
Sign up now!

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First Ever Home Remodeling Tour a Success



Nearly 2,000 visitors turned out for the first ever Coon Rapids Home Remodeling Tour. The event, held May 18, was a chance for the public to get a behind-the-scenes look at six homes that were remodeled through the City of Coon Rapids Home for Generations II Program. This program provides resources and financial incentives to homeowners who complete major home remodels worth \$35,000 or more.

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Mayor's Corner

Summer is here...finally. It sure was a long winter. Like many of you, I am trying to spend as much time as I can outside because these warm days don't last long enough! Our City has a lot of great things going on right now. Our Home for Generations Phase II program has been extremely successful with over 50 people submitting applications to remodel their homes. Nearly 2,000 people turned out to get remodeling ideas and learn more about the program on May 18 at the first ever Home Remodeling Tour. Home for Generations II provides financial incentives to homeowners who are willing to invest in remodeling projects worth \$35,000 or more. If you are thinking about remodeling your home, I invite you to learn more about this program. More information can be found on our City website and in this newsletter.

I also invite you to bring your family, neighbors and friends to any of the many events being hosted in our community this summer. From the free concert events at the Coon Rapids Dam on Thursday nights to the July 4th Community Celebration and Movie in the Park event in August, there's something for everyone. And don't forget, we are continuing our annual "Summer in the City" neighborhood meeting series this year, so we invite you to come out to one of these events to learn about City projects and ask questions. A complete listing of the meeting dates is featured in this newsletter.

As always, if you have questions, comments or suggestions related to our city, do not hesitate to contact me or your councilmember.

Mayor Tim Howe

SUMMER 2014 NEWSLETTER

2014 COON RAPIDS CITY COUNCIL



Mayor

Tim Howe

763-755-8850

thowe@coonrapidsmn.gov

COUNCILMEMBERS



Ward 1

Denise Klint

763-576-8488

dklint@coonrapidsmn.gov



Ward 2

Ron Manning

763-755-9128

rmanning@coonrapidsmn.gov



Ward 3

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763-755-1179

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Ward 4

Jerry Koch

763-767-1811

jkoch@coonrapidsmn.gov



Ward 5

Bruce Sanders

763-757-8486

bsanders@coonrapidsmn.gov



At Large

Steve Wells

763-323-4984

swells@coonrapidsmn.gov

City Meetings CALENDAR

(All meetings held at the Coon Rapids City Center unless otherwise noted.)

City Council Meetings

July 1 & 15, Aug 6 & 19 and Sept 2 & 16
7:00 p.m.

Arts Commission (Note Change)

July 16, Aug 20 and Sept 17 • 6:00 p.m.

Board of Adjustment and Appeals

July 3, Aug 7 and Sept 4 • 6:30 p.m.

Historical Commission

July 17, Aug 21 and Sept 18 • 7:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission

(Note Change)

July 14, Aug 11 and Sept 8 • 6:30 p.m.
Public Works Garage

Planning Commission

July 17, Aug 21 and Sept 18 • 6:30 p.m.

Safety Commission

Sept 11 • 7:15 p.m.

Sustainability Commission

July 17, Aug 21 and Sept 18 • 6:30 p.m.

City offices will be closed:

Friday, July 4, 2014

Schedule subject to change. Contact the staff liaison at 763-755-2880 to confirm.

Public notices are published in the City's official newspaper, The Anoka County UnionHerald, and on the website: www.coonrapidsmn.gov



Is there a street light out in your neighborhood or a pothole that needs repair?

Report it to the City by using SeeClickFix! Download the app on your smartphone today! Find out more at www.coonrapidsmn.gov

Public Health Recognition Award

Coon Rapids Police Officer Bryan Platz is the recipient of the Anoka County Public Health Recognition Award. In April, Platz was recognized for his work spearheading the Heart Safe Coon Rapids program, an initiative to help people survive sudden cardiac arrest. Coon Rapids is the first Heart Safe community in Anoka County thanks to Platz and the work of dozens of volunteers. Platz's work on the Heart Safe program has resulted in the training of over 4,000 Coon Rapids citizens in bystander CPR and AED use as well as the identification of over 100 AEDs in the Coon Rapids community. Officer

Platz was presented with a plaque in front of the Anoka County Board and given the opportunity to speak about the success of the program. Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte has now challenged the entire county to become Heart Safe, a challenge Officer Platz will likely assist with. Congratulations to Officer Platz and everyone who has worked on the Heart Safe Coon Rapids initiative!

At left Coon Rapids Police Chief Brad Wise with Officer Bryan Platz, recipient of the Anoka County Public Health Recognition Award.



2014 Safety Camp

Safety skills for kids that will last a lifetime

The Coon Rapids Police and Fire departments are teaming up to teach kids a variety of skills that will help them stay safe. Safety camp is a chance for Coon Rapids students entering 4th and 5th grades in the fall of 2014 to learn important safety skills including: water, fire and electrical safety, basic first aid and how to use 911.

Date: July 22 and 23
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: Sand Creek Park
1008 Northdale Blvd

A \$40 registration fee is required, which covers supplies, a t-shirt, snacks and lunch, as well as transportation to and from the swimming pool. Scholarships are available to children using the free and reduced lunch program. Call 763-767-6429 for more information about scholarships. A graduation ceremony will take place on July 23.

To participate, you must fill out a registration form, which is available on the City website at www.coonrapidsmn.gov. Click on Community Events, then Safety Camp. For more information contact the Coon Rapids Fire Department at 763-767-6429 or email schapin@coonrapidsmn.gov.



2014 Election Update



This year's election will provide many choices for Coon Rapids residents. Redistricting boundary changes that took place in 2012 resulted in Councilmembers Paul Johnson and Bruce Sanders both being placed in Ward 3, leaving Ward 5 as an open seat beginning in 2015. Overall, three seats are open on this year's ballot. Councilmembers

Johnson and Sanders have decided not to seek reelection, as well as Mayor Tim Howe.

Beginning in May, qualified voters were invited to file an Affidavit of Candidacy for public office. Information on where to vote can be found on the City's website at www.coonrapidsmn.gov/clerk/elections. Absentee voting for the Primary Election begins June 27 and can be done at either Coon Rapids City Hall or the Anoka County Government Center. If you are interested in serving as an election judge, visit the City's website.

For more detailed election and voter information please visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.mn.us or contact the City Clerk's office at clerk@coonrapidsmn.gov or 763-767-6493.

2014 Road Construction

Road construction season is upon us and the City is working to reconstruct over nine miles of streets. These projects involve everything from removing and replacing pavement to repairing and replacing storm sewer, sanitary sewer and water main facilities. The City is also maintaining over 17 miles of roadway as part of a seal coating process.

2014 reconstruction includes:

- The area generally west of Blackfoot Street between 119th Avenue NW and 121st Avenue NW, in addition to streets adjacent to Hanson Boulevard between 113th Avenue NW and Robinson Drive (Project 14-1).

- Round Lake Boulevard between 115th Avenue NW and approximately 450 feet south of Main Street. There will also be a traffic signal installed at the intersection of Round Lake Boulevard and Wedgewood Drive (Project 14-2).

- The area around Hanson Boulevard between 107th Avenue NW and 113th Avenue NW (Project 14-3).

- The area generally north of Coon Rapids Boulevard between 101st Avenue NW and 103rd Avenue NW, as well as a second area just west of East River Road, generally between Mississippi Boulevard NW and 90th Avenue NW (Project 14-4).

Work crews ask motorists for their patience during construction. Please obey the posted work zone speed limits and follow the recommended detours, both of which are designed with public safety in mind.

To see a complete map showing all of the reconstruction projects, Anoka County construction projects and to read about weekly construction updates visit www.coonrapidsmn.gov.

STREET SWEEPING

City crews continue to sweep streets during the summer.

Please keep all grass, leaves, basketball hoops, garbage and recycling cans out of the street.

Our crews thank you for your help!

2014 Green Expo – A Big Success!



Ideas for Sustainable Living

Hundreds of visitors turned out for the 5th annual Green Expo at the National Sports Center on May 10. For the first time, this year the City of Coon Rapids

partnered with the City of Blaine and the National Sports Center to provide a larger space for the growing annual event. Over 60 local exhibitors, ranging from energy specialists to government and educational resources, gathered to share sustainability ideas, products and services to promote sustainable living in Minnesota. Several hundred visitors participated in the free event, which also featured speakers, activities for kids and a used sports equipment swap. Save the date on your calendar for next year: Saturday, April 25, 2015.



2014 Photo Contest

The Coon Rapids Arts Commission is pleased to announce a photography contest for amateur photographers!

Who is eligible:

Everyone...as long as your photo is taken in Coon Rapids!

How to enter:

Visit the City's website www.coonrapidsmn.gov in mid-July for a complete list of contest rules and guidelines.

The Coon Rapids Arts Commission promotes local cultural events and activities, including concerts and art shows.



2013 first place winner: "Winter Storm" submitted by Duane Wraalstad

Planning Underway for Sand Creek Park Renovations

Sand Creek Park, located at 1008 Northdale Boulevard, will be completely reconstructed in 2015 as part of the park bond approved by voters in 2013. A Concept Plan was presented at a recent public open house event. City staff are in the process of finalizing the plan, with a goal of presenting it to the City Council for final approval sometime later this summer.

Plans include a completely new layout of the complex to bring it up to modern athletic field standards. Some of the highlights include: rearranged parking and ball fields, new concession buildings, football and lacrosse fields, enhanced trails with connections to the nearby neighborhood, a play area with possible splash pad feature, half court basketball area, new tennis courts and lighting changes.

You can view the entire Concept Plan for Sand Creek Park online at www.coonrapidsmn.gov.

Riverview Park Renovations

Renovations to Riverview Park, located at 2420 105th Avenue, will begin this fall. Plans include a new playground, multi-purpose building with restrooms, skate park and rearranged parking. Under the new plan, all parking will be located off of 105th Avenue, eliminating the need for visitors to use Uplander Street as an access point to get into the park. Ball fields four and five will also be relocated as part of the renovations. The ball fields are home to the Coon Rapids National Little League.

Neighborhood Park Improvements

Peppermint Stick Park, located at 11480

Raven Street, will be renovated this summer. Improvements will include new playground equipment, trail upgrades and other amenities. The renovations will be paid for with the City's Capital Park Improvement Funds. A new picnic shelter will also be added to Sunrise Pond Park, located at 125 124th Lane.

Park Facility Reservations

Are you interested in reserving a picnic shelter for a summer party or using an athletic field? Call Recreation Coordinator Ryan Gunderson at 763-767-6513.

Tree City USA Designation

The Arbor Day Foundation recently named the City of Coon Rapids a 2013 Tree City USA in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management. The City achieved this designation by meeting four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. Cleaner air, improved storm water management, energy savings and increased property values and commercial activity are among the benefits enjoyed by Tree City USA communities! Coon Rapids is one of over 3400 cities to receive this designation.



Coon Rapids Dam Update

Construction work continues at the Coon Rapids Dam. Phase 1 of the project is now complete. Five new spillway gates have been installed as well as a new stilling basin. Phase 2 of the project is currently underway and includes the construction of a temporary cofferdam on the Hennepin County side of the river, the installation of four new spillway gates and the refurbishment of the existing control gate. Phase 2 is expected to be complete by December 2014. During construction, the walkway over the dam will remain closed, however both visitor centers on the East and West sides of the dam will be open during normal business hours.

The improvements being made to the Coon Rapids Dam are meant to inhibit the spread of invasive carp. The \$16 million renovation project was approved by the Minnesota State Legislature in 2011. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Three Rivers Park District entered into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) on January 19, 2012. The JPA clarifies that the DNR will become solely responsible for the reconstruction of the dam, for management of the dam as a fish barrier and for setting the pool operation parameters. The Three Rivers Park District remains responsible for routine maintenance and daily operation of the dam and is the owner of the dam.

New spillway gates at the Coon Rapids Dam



Protecting Coon Creek It's a WRAP

You've probably heard in the news that many of our Minnesota lakes and streams are designated as "Impaired", meaning they are not meeting Clean Water Act standards for different pollutants, according to the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Locally, these include Sand Creek, Pleasure Creek, Springbrook Creek and Coon Creek. The issues are different for different waterbodies. They include too much phosphorus, sediment that causes turbidity (cloudiness) or bacteria and occur mostly after rainstorms. These pollutants are detrimental to fish and other aquatic life.

Rather than addressing each creek separately, the MPCA funded a watershed-wide study being done by the Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD). The study is called a WRAPs - Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy. It started with looking at the biological, chemical and physical health of the creeks. Then, a rigorous scientific analysis was done this year to narrow down possible causes of the pollution. Next is creating a long-range plan by mid-2015 to reduce specific pollutants in each creek.

Meanwhile, the CCWD is already working closely with the City of Coon Rapids to improve water quality. CCWD is retrofitting neighborhoods that were built before stormwater was a concern. In some areas you may see a new stormwater pond, in others, rain gardens.

The first part of the WRAPS is on the CCWD website. For more information, contact TJ Helgeson, WRAPS Coordinator at 763-755-0975 or email tjhelgeson@cooncreekwd.org.

Tips to keep our waterways clean:

- Pay attention to your lawn care. Keep grass clippings off the street, driveway, sidewalk and other paved surfaces. Grass clippings can add phosphorus pollution to our waterways, increasing algae growth which can reduce oxygen in the water.
- Keep sand and dirt out of the street too! It can run off into our creeks and wetlands, filling them in or causing turbidity.

City of Coon Rapids Consumer Confidence Water Report

The City of Coon Rapids is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water from the period of January 1 to December 31, 2013.

The 2013 Consumer Confidence Water Report is available at www.coonrapidsmn.gov/publicworks/utilities/pdf/WaterQualityReport.pdf

A paper copy of this report is available upon request. For more information, contact Stephanie Ring, Communications and Marketing Coordinator at 763-767-6582 or sring@coonrapidsmn.gov.

Why Are Permits Required?

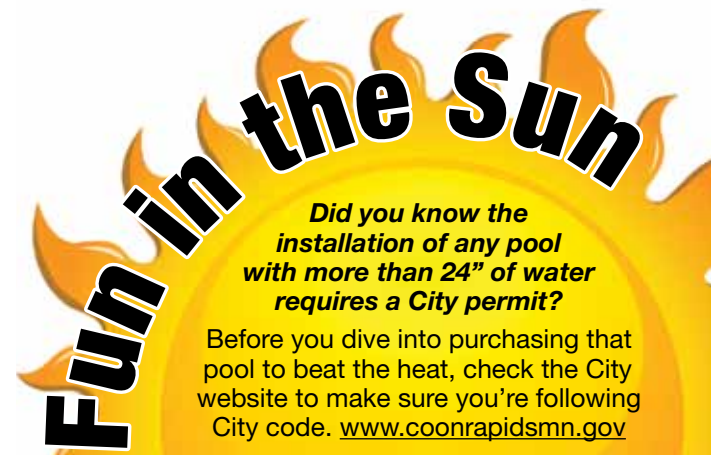
Permits are a useful tool to help protect you and your assets. Not only do permits preserve property value over time, they also serve as a way for cities to protect the community against natural disasters that may occur. In conjunction with this, insurance providers want to know how well cities enforce state codes in order to set premiums. A recent Insurance Services Office (ISO) review gave the City of Coon Rapids a very favorable rating. Evaluations are rated on a scale of 1-10, with 1 representing an excellent commitment to building code enforcement. Coon Rapids received a rating of 4 out of 10, with the average US city earning a 6 out of 10. This rating is a strong sign of the City of Coon Rapids' commitment to keeping residents safe and a useful reminder of why permits play a vital role in our community.

Sprinkling Ban June 1 – August 31

Odd-numbered home addresses water on odd calendar days. Even-numbered home addresses water on even calendar days. This helps to even out the demand for water treatment and usage.

Thanks for your cooperation!

*The Spring edition of the Coon Rapids Connection listed May 1 as the start of the sprinkling ban, which was incorrect. We apologize if this caused any confusion.



**Did you know the
installation of any pool
with more than 24" of water
requires a City permit?**

Before you dive into purchasing that pool to beat the heat, check the City website to make sure you're following City code. www.coonrapidsmn.gov

4th of July Event Schedule

All events take place at Sand Creek Park, 1008 Northdale Boulevard

Sponsored by the Coon Rapids Fire Social Group, the North Star Lions Club and the Coon Rapids Community Strength Foundation.

Thursday, July 3

8 a.m. Concession stand opens (breakfast served until 11 a.m.)*
5 p.m. Midway opens
6 p.m. Parade
Immediately following parade Bingo & Pull Tabs opens
11 p.m. Midway closes



Friday, July 4

8 a.m. Concession stand opens (breakfast served until 11 a.m.)*
Noon Midway opens
Noon Bingo & Pull Tabs opens
12:30 p.m. Bean Bag Tournament
7 p.m. Live Music, "Shag" (the band will also play after the fireworks)
10 p.m. Firework display
Midnight Midway closes

Saturday, July 5

8 a.m. Concession stand opens (breakfast served until 11 a.m.)*
Noon Midway opens
Noon Bingo & Pull Tabs opens
5-11 p.m. "Car Show to Remember - Hot Rods and Classics"
7 p.m. Live Music, "The Arcades"
7:30 p.m. Bean Bag Tournament
10 p.m. Midway closes

*Concession stand, operated by the North Star Lions Club, remains open throughout the day serving pulled pork sandwiches, walking tacos, hot dogs and more.

The Coon Rapids Civic Center

Available for your next event!

The Coon Rapids Civic Center is the perfect place to host a wedding ceremony and reception, birthday party, family reunion or other special event. The space can seat up to 230, the Center features a banquet room, conference rooms and an outdoor patio and gazebo. The banquet room also offers a full service kitchen, perfect for your own Minnesota licensed caterer.

Personal tours of the facility are available by appointment. Please call the facilities coordinator at 763-767-6522.

First Ever Home Remodeling Tour a Success Continued from page 1



The Knudson family's remodel includes a bonus room above their new garage. "Party Central" as the kids call it is just one of the family spaces created with their 2500 square foot addition.

During the four-hour open house style tour, visitors were able to see the value-added improvements that Coon Rapids homeowners have been making through the HFG II program. This was also an opportunity for those touring the homes to talk to homeowners, contractors and other representatives about how the program works. The public response was overwhelmingly

positive about the tour. Jillian Haussner, whose home was featured, said she was amazed at the number of visitors, "The response has been great! Visitors have been so supportive and we hope that they find it encouraging to see how much of this work we were able to do on our own thanks to the program."

Among the homes showcased, projects ranged from \$35,000 to \$200,000 worth of investment. Visitors were able to see everything from major kitchen and bathroom remodels to additions and exterior improvements to help them get ideas for their own homes. Many homeowners also took the time to learn more about the City's financial incentives. Coon Rapids resident Cindy Johnson toured all six homes and said, "This has been a great opportunity for me to get an idea of what would be possible in my own home. I have been following the Home for Generations II program and am excited to see the work in person." By showcasing the home improvements made through the HFG II program, the City hopes to empower other residents to turn their remodeling dreams into reality.

Money is still available for those interested in the Home for Generations II Program. Projects must be valued at \$35,000 or more and add living space or be a major remodel, such as kitchen and

bathroom remodels, moving or removing walls to change the layout, etc. There are no income limits to qualify for the program, but your home must be at least 20 years old. Eligible homeowners can earn up to \$5,000 in grant money, as well as building permit fee rebates and subsidized consultations with architects. Financing for home remodels can be accessed through the Coon Rapids Mortgage Assistance Foundation or through your own financing sources. To learn more, visit www.coonrapidsmn.gov, call Kristin at 763-767-6517 or email kdegrande@coonrapidsmn.gov.

Learn how one homeowner secured financing for her remodel through the Home for Generations II Program on page 8.



The Sullivan's beautiful new bathroom includes custom cabinets, creating lots of storage.

Local Homeowner Makes Dreams Come True Thanks to City Financing

When Ellaura Ukofia looked at her 1979 split entry home for the first time, she knew it wasn't perfect. An outdated kitchen, boring entryway and yellow exterior didn't leave much to be desired. However, Ellaura knew the house had potential, so she bought it, renovated it and now has the home she



When she purchased the home, Ellaura's kitchen included yellow countertops and outdated cabinets. Remodeling "the heart of the home" was at the top of Ellaura's priority list.



Granite countertops, tile backsplash and alder wood custom cabinets are highlights of this kitchen remodel. Removing a wall also opened up the space, allowing room for a center island.

always wanted. Ellaura used the City's Home for Generations II program to make her remodeling dreams come true and now she has the home she was envisioning.

"When I discovered HFG II, the grant incentive money really set this program apart. I knew the program would allow me to make the changes my home needed and I couldn't be happier with the way things turned out."

Ellaura's home was one of six featured on the City's recent Home Remodeling tour (more on page 1.) Thanks to a low interest loan, offered by the Coon Rapids Mortgage Assistance Foundation, Ellaura was able to borrow \$50,000 to transform her kitchen, living room, bathroom, entryway and exterior of the home. She wasn't afraid to take down walls to open up the space, revamp the outdated kitchen and refresh the exterior of the home to enhance curb appeal.

The financing program that Ellaura used, available only through the Home for Generations II program, offers a fixed interest rate of 4.5%. Ellaura says it was a program she couldn't refuse.

"The entire process was easy. At first, I felt intimidated dealing with financing, but everyone I worked with made it so simple. The HFG II loan made it possible for me to have the home I was dreaming of. I am thrilled."

If you're interested in the Home for Generations II program and are looking at ways to secure financing for your home remodeling project, call Kristin at 763-767-6517 or email kdegrande@coonrapidsmn.gov. Remodeling projects must be at least \$35,000 or more. There are no income limits for this program. Loans through the Coon Rapids Mortgage Assistance Foundation are available in amounts up to \$50,000 at a fixed interest rate of 4.5%.



Ellaura's open entryway creates a warm and welcoming entrance into the newly renovated home.

Home Improvement Resources

Community Development Block Grant funding is available for homeowners to fix up their homes and make energy improvements! No interest, deferred payment and forgivable loans. Income guidelines apply. Call the HousingResource Center™ at 651-486-7401.

Remodeling Advisor Visits offer FREE professional advice to help homeowners plan their dream remodel. Call the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) at 612-335-5856 or visit www.mncee.org.

Home improvement loans can help finance any remodeling project. Call the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) at 612-335-5884.

Down payment assistance is available through the Coon Rapids Mortgage Assistance Foundation. Contact Cheryl Bennett at the City of Coon Rapids at 763-767-6422 or cbennett@coonrapidsmn.gov.

FREE Business Advice

The Open to Business program has helped several Coon Rapids residents and business owners by providing business advice ranging from marketing and financial management to leasing and purchasing property.

If you are a Coon Rapids business owner or looking to open a business in the city, you're invited to participate in this FREE opportunity. Business Advisor, Rob Smolund holds office hours at City Hall for walk-in appointments on the **third Tuesday of each month from 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.** Interested entrepreneurs can also schedule appointments at other times by calling 612-789-7337, ext. 260.

Examples of how Open to Business has helped other clients:

- An existing business owner received advice about real estate issues and expansion plans.
- A resident received help in evaluating his target market and received suggestions on how he could expand his product into new markets.

More information about this program can also be found online at www.opentobusinessmn.org.



Financial Resources for Coon Rapids Businesses

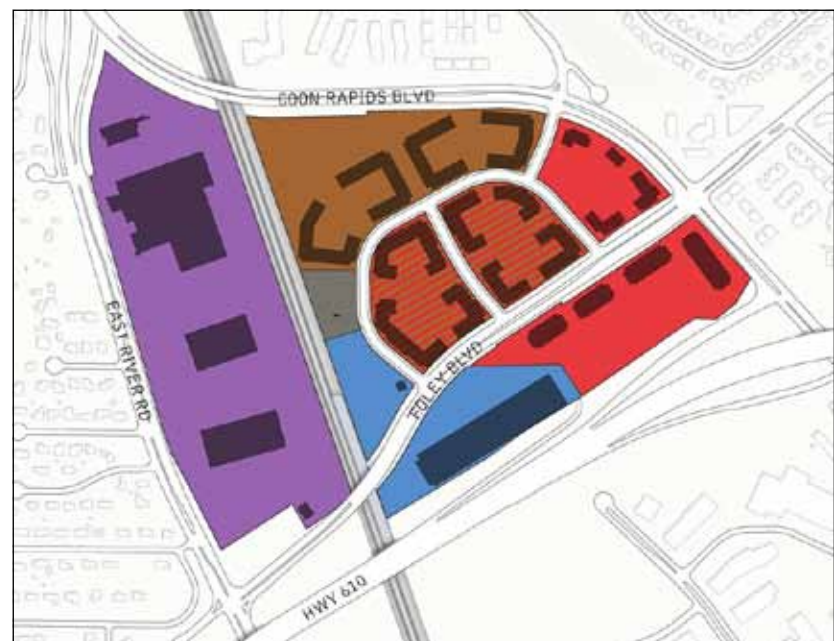
The City of Coon Rapids offers a variety of financing options for projects that help achieve its development goals. These resources are administered by both the City and outside sources, including the Central Minnesota Development Company (CMDc), which is authorized to provide Small Business Administration loans and other loan products throughout Minnesota.



Business financing options include: the Commercial Fix-up Fund, the Coon Rapids Commercial/Industrial Loan Fund and the CMDc Initiative Fund. For more information visit www.coonrapidsmn.gov/economicdev or contact Mike Mulrooney at the Central Minnesota Development Company at 763-784-3337.

Foley Boulevard Station Area Plan

The City of Coon Rapids has been working with the Hoisington Koegler Group on a planning process to determine future infrastructure needs and development patterns in the area by the Foley Boulevard Park-and-Ride near Highway 610. This planning project will help the City prepare for future infrastructure investments that are planned in the area, including the Northern Lights Express high speed rail, future bus and rail service and possible major road improvements. To date, several concepts have been prepared showing how the area might redevelop in the future. An open house was held on April 29 to gather public input on the ideas. The planning project is funded by a \$40,000 grant from the Metropolitan Council. The goal of the grant program is to catalyze development around transit stations. Learn the latest on the project by visiting www.foleyblvdstation.com.



Other Business News:

- **Mattress Firm** will be opening a new location at the corner of Main Street and Round Lake Boulevard.
- **McDonald's** is constructing a new restaurant on the northwest corner of Highway 10 and Hanson Boulevard.
- **Chanticlear Pizza** plans to move into a larger space in the Northlake Shoppes center at Northdale and Crooked Lake Boulevards. The new space will offer table service and additional seating.
- **Bath and Body Works** is planning to move into the former Archiver's space in Riverdale.
- **Mercy Hospital** is constructing a new Mother-Baby unit, an addition next to the Heart and Vascular Center, which will add space for labor, delivery and recovery.



**Tuesday
August 5, 2014**

Have you registered your neighborhood party for Night to Unite?

Don't miss out on this annual event that brings neighbors together to get to know one another and participate in the fight against crime. It's also a great opportunity to connect with members of the Coon Rapids Police and Fire Departments. Neighbors often

participate in pot-luck dinners, grilling parties, games and other fun events, all organized by neighborhood volunteers. It's a neighborhood party with a great purpose! Get your neighborhood involved today!

How to Register:

- IN PERSON at the Coon Rapids Police Department located at 11155 Robinson Drive NW (763-767-6481)
- ONLINE at www.coonrapidsmn.gov/police/nighttounite.htm



2014 Police Citizens Academy

Sign up now!

Have you ever wanted to go behind-the-scenes of the Coon Rapids Police Department? Now's your chance! Sign up for the 2014 Police Citizens Academy. Participants will learn about a variety of topics, view demonstrations and take part in hands-on activities. The class will meet on Wednesday evenings beginning September 3, from 6-9:30 p.m. and go through November 5. Visit the City's website for more information: www.coonrapidsmn.gov/police.

Meet Billy the New K-9



The Coon Rapids Police Department is pleased to announce the addition of its new K-9, Billy. Billy is a German Shepherd from the Czech Republic and is currently training with his handler, Bill Hammes. In late 2013, the Coon Rapids Crime Prevention Association started raising money to secure a second canine unit for the department. The response was overwhelming and thanks to an outpouring of community support, the department was able to purchase the dog. We will have more information about our newest member of the Police Department in the Fall Coon Rapids Connection newsletter.

Keep Your Pets Safe This Summer

Each year the Coon Rapids Police Department responds to dozens of calls about pets left in hot cars. This is extremely dangerous as the inside temperature of a car can be more than thirty degrees hotter than the outdoor temperature!

It's better to leave your animal at home during the summer. Don't take your furry friend to the store. Even just a few minutes in a hot car can cause distress.

If you see a distressed animal in a locked car, call 911. It is against the law to leave a dog or cat unattended in a standing or parked car in a manner that endangers the animal's health or safety.

Coon Rapids Police K-9 Buddy says "Keep your pets 'cool' this summer. Keep them at home, not in the car!"



Coon Rapids Fire Department History - The 1960s and 1970s

(Part two of a four part series)

Staffing and Expansion

With a growing community to protect, the City held a special election asking voters to approve a bond which would provide the money necessary to build a new fire station. The bond issue was approved by voters on April 12, 1960, which allowed for the construction of Fire Station 2 at a cost not to exceed \$51,215. Less than a year later, on February 25, 1961, Fire Station 2 opened at 401 115th Avenue.

In January 1963, Harold Bartholow, a founding member of the Department, was appointed as the first full-time fire chief of the 30 member department. The next month, the department hired its first two full-time firefighters, both of which had served as volunteer members for several years. At the end of 1965, the department consisted of seven full-time firefighters and 34 volunteers and just four years later, in 1969, the department consisted of 12 full-time and 32 volunteer firefighters.



Fire Station 2, later years

A third fire station soon became necessary to provide adequate coverage in the city. In February 1969, the Fire Underwriters Inspection Bureau agreed on the proposed location of Fire Station 3 at Crooked Lake Boulevard and 113th Avenue. The station opened just over a year later on October 3, 1970.



New Fire Station 3

Due of a lack of staffing, Fire Station 1 eventually closed in July 1975 and headquarters were relocated to Station 3.

By the end of the 1970s, the department served a population of 35,000, and was called to about 1100 calls a year. Staffing included a fire chief, assistant chief, fire marshal, three captains, 18 full time firefighters and 20 volunteers.

Notable Fires

A March 25, 1975, fire destroyed the concession stand at the Coon Rapids Drive-in Theater on Coon Rapids Boulevard. Firefighters had to wait for city plows to clear the snow-covered entrance into the area before they were able to attack the fire. Several juveniles were to blame for starting the fire after roasting marshmallows over a bonfire inside the closed facility.

In February 1974, an early morning explosion, sparked by a gas leak, caused a fire that destroyed a home on Flora Street. Several nearby homes had to be evacuated while emergency responders determined if there was still a threat to the area. The cause of the explosion was due to a leak from a damaged main gas line.



Fire at the Coon Rapids Drive-in



View from the front of 10616 Flora Street

Recreational Fire Reminders

As the nights get longer and temperatures heat up, so do the recreational fires. These fires are allowed without a permit, but are subject to specific City regulations. Recreational fires cannot exceed three feet in diameter with a flame height of no more than three feet. Bonfires are not permitted.

Only clean, dry wood can be used in your recreational fire. Burning of leaves and other household debris is not allowed. Fire extinguishing tools such as a hose, shovel or bucket of water need to be readily available. Fires must be kept at least 25 feet from homes and other structures. A

responsible adult must be present to supervise the fire at all times. Fires are permitted from 8 a.m. to midnight any day of the week, for a maximum of 6 hours of burning.

Any police or fire personnel may withdraw permission for fires due to climatic conditions, extreme dryness, nuisance problems or violations of guidelines. Fines and/or tickets may be issued for not abiding by the recreational fire guidelines. If you have questions about recreational fires, call 763-767-6429. Illegal fires should be reported to 911.



Seniors' Corner

Anoka County Cribbage Tournament

On April 11, the Coon Rapids Senior Center proudly hosted the 22nd annual Anoka County Senior Cribbage Tournament. Ninety-six players enjoyed refreshments, door prizes and lunch while playing game after game of cribbage.



Shirley Jacobson and Keith Doke of the Anoka Senior Center were the winners of the tournament with a near perfect score of 843 points after seven games of play. Shirley and Keith will have their names engraved on the traveling trophy which will be displayed at the Anoka Senior Center. Next year's tournament will be held at the Fridley Senior Center.

Minnesota Safety Council Defensive Driving Courses

By attending a MN Safety Council Defensive Driving Course, individuals 55+ years of age with a valid driver's license can receive a 10 percent automobile insurance discount for three years. Those taking the course for the first time must attend an 8-hour session. Returning drivers can take a 4-hour refresher course. These classes fill up early. Registration and payment must be received 2 weeks prior to the class. Classes take place at the Coon Rapids Senior Center. Call 763-767-6473 to register or get a complete listing of classes.

4-HOUR REFRESHER COURSE: \$20.00

Monday, June 23: 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Monday, July 14: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Monday July 28: 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.

8-HOUR COURSE: \$22.00

Monday, September 15 & 22: 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.

In 2013, 398 volunteers contributed 32,547 hours of service to the Coon Rapids Senior Center.

Thank you volunteers!

Assistance with Property Tax and Rent Refunds

Coon Rapids Senior Center
11155 Robinson Drive
Tuesday, July 29
12:30 – 4:00 p.m.

*No appointments.
First-come, first-served.*

Coon Rapids Roamers Walking Club

If you are looking for an opportunity to get more exercise, meet new friends and enjoy nature, it is not too late to join the Coon Rapids Roamers! The group meets at 9 a.m. on Friday mornings at the Coon Rapids Senior Center and walks approximately 1 to 1.5 miles. The Roamers hike along the trails behind City Hall and take the Senior Center Bus to other area parks.

If you are interested in walking more than once a week, consider joining another group in the area! For more information, call Volunteer Leader Beverly at 763-571-7502.

MONDAYS – Blaine Trailblazers

TUESDAYS – Fridley Happy Hikers

WEDNESDAYS – Spring Lake Park Strollers

THURSDAYS – Columbia Heights Hikers

FRIDAYS – Coon Rapids Roamers





New Practice Area Now Open

Come to Bunker Hills and try out our NEW practice area...the perfect place to test your swing or your putting and chipping techniques!

Kids Golf for FREE

Bunker Hills invites you to bring your children to play golf on the Executive Course...for FREE. Our special program allows children to golf for FREE with a paid adult, every day of the week after 4 pm. First come, first served. Golf is the perfect sport for all ages, so why not bring your entire family to Bunker Hills for a great evening of fun!



golfTEC is open for private lessons.

Call 612-424-9251 or visit bunkerhillsgolf.com



Open for lunch and dinner every day!

Happy Hour and Golfer's Specials!

Bunker Hills Golf Club

12800 Bunker Prairie Drive
Coon Rapids, MN 55448

Golf Shop: 763-755-4141

golfTEC: 612-424-9251

Harvest Grill: 763-755-1234



Public Skating Events

Take a break from the heat this summer and visit the Coon Rapids Ice Center!

Summer Public Skating Schedule:

Wednesdays & Fridays:
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sundays:
3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for students. Children ages 5 and under skate FREE with a paid admission. Private ice rental is also available.

Last Day of School Skating Event

June 11, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Public skate and roller hockey

Come join the fun!

Summer Skating School

Sign up now for summer skating lessons. Classes are available for figure skaters and hockey players. Summer sessions are 10 weeks long, June 16 through August 18. Classes are 30 minutes in length with 30 minutes of practice time. For more information, including detailed course descriptions, visit www.coonrapidsicecenter.com.

Coon Rapids Ice Center

11000 Crooked Lake Blvd. • 763-951-7222
WWW.COONRAPIDSICECENTER.COM

55+ Softball

There is still time to participate! The group meets on Wednesday evenings at Sand Creek Park through July 31. Contact Ryan Gunderson for more information, 763-767-6513.

Yoga at Lions Park

Interested in doing yoga while enjoying one of Coon Rapids' 48 parks? Now is your chance! Yoga sessions are held every Tuesday morning from July 8 to August 26. Classes begin at 10 a.m. at Lions Coon Creek Park and are led by certified Yoga instructors. Don't forget your mat, towel, water and sunscreen! For more information, visit the City's website: www.coonrapidsmn.gov.

Bunker Hills Dog Park

Let your pooch run with other four-legged friends at the FREE Bunker Hills Dog Park, located off Hanson Boulevard and 133rd Ave, near the Compost Site in Bunker Hills Regional Park.

The park is open every day from 6 a.m. until a half hour after sunset. The project is a joint partnership between Anoka County and the cities of Coon Rapids and Andover.



Parks & Recreation

Fall Athletic Association Registration

Fall registration begins soon. Check individual association websites for more information.

Coon Rapids Athletic Association

- Football for 2nd to 8th grade
 - Basketball for 2nd to 12th grade (boys and girls)
 - Wrestling for 1st to 6th grade
- www.craakids.com

Coon Rapids Soccer Association

Recreational and competitive soccer for all ages (4 years and older)

www.crsoccer.org

Coon Rapids Hockey Association

Hockey for Coon Rapids youth age 4 to 18

www.coonrapidshockey.com

Coon Rapids Cardinal Basketball Club

Traveling basketball for boys and girls

www.coonrapidshoops.org

Fall Softball Leagues

Registration for fall softball leagues begin July 7 and continue until leagues are full. League play begins the week of August 11. Teams play each week at Sand Creek or Al Flynn Park. Contact Ryan Gunderson at 763-767-6513.

Pickleball

Play pickleball at Moor Park on weekday mornings, weather permitting. A group of residents is already playing this popular sport and they invite you to join in the fun! For more information contact Recreation Coordinator Ryan Gunderson at 763-767-6513.



"The Element" Teen Center

11747 Crocus Street
(at Riverwind Park)

Summer Hours

June 17 through August 21

Tuesday – Thursday:
12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Special Events:

July 11
12th Anniversary Party • 6 – 9 p.m.

August 5
Night to Unite event • 5 – 8 p.m.

The Element Teen Center is the perfect place to hang out with friends while enjoying games and activities... and it's FREE!

Other News

Cheat Sheet to City Codes

It's difficult to know all of the City's code requirements. Codes are the standards developed by the City Council to keep Coon Rapids a safe and desirable place to live. The codes which are most often misunderstood include:

1. **Grass:** No part of your yard (grass or weeds) can be any taller than 8" in height (City code 8-500). If you would like to report a property that has not been mowed, please call 763-951-7200 or e-mail the complaint to weeds@coonrapidsmn.gov.

2. **Rental Licensing:** All rental properties (even single family homes and townhomes)

must be licensed by the City. (City code 12-900). Information and application materials can be found on the City's website or you may call a housing inspector at 763-767-6575.

3. **Parking:** All vehicles, trailers, boats and other similar equipment must be parked on an improved surface (NOT on any part of the grass or class 5 rock) in the front or side yard (City code 11-602 and 11-603). They must also be operational (not taken apart, missing parts) and with current registration and tabs (City code 11-601 and 12-306). For questions about installing a driveway or other parking areas, call Building Inspections at 763-767-6476.

4. **Exterior Storage:** Building materials, car parts/tires, appliances, inoperable lawn mowers or bikes, couches or other indoor furniture, miscellaneous debris, or any other item not

intended for outdoor use cannot be stored in your yard or on your driveway, they must be indoors in your house, garage or shed (City code 8-100).

5. **Garbage Service:** All homes are required to have garbage collection service (City code 8-200).

6. **House Numbers:** Have you recently re-sided your home? All buildings must have address numbers installed so the fire and police departments can quickly locate your home in an emergency (City code 10-106).

7. **Pools:** All pools with at least 24" of water must be completely enclosed with a 4' high fence and gate (City code 12-500).

8. **Garage Sales:** You may have 6 or fewer garage sales per calendar year, and each sale is limited to four days or less (City code 11-601).

Recycling Review

New Hours in 2014!

Due to increased demand, the Recycling Center is now open five days a week to serve your needs!

APRIL-OCTOBER

Monday: Closed **Friday:** 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Tuesday: 2 p.m. – 8 p.m. **Saturday:** 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Wednesday: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. **Sunday:** Closed
Thursday: 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Furniture Re-use Partner Bridging

The Coon Rapids Recycling Center is proud to recommend Bridging, a non-profit organization known as the largest furniture bank in North America, as a source for furniture reuse. Through the effective reuse of donated items, the organization provides quality furniture and household goods to those transitioning out of homelessness and poverty. The program also keeps 7 to 10 million pounds of furniture out of local landfills!



If you have furniture in good condition that you wish to donate, it can be taken to the Roseville Bridging location: 1633 Terrace Drive, Roseville, MN 55113 • 651-631-3255

Donations are accepted:

Monday through Thursday • 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fridays and Saturdays • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bridging is closed on Sundays and all major holidays.

Furniture reuse events will no longer occur at the Coon Rapids Recycling Center.

SUSTAINABILITY TIP

Did you know that during a 1" rainfall about 389,740,000 gallons of water will accumulate across the City of Coon Rapids!

What You Can Do

Don't let this water run-off, reuse it! Collect some of the water in rain barrels. Learn more about how to set up the best system at www.extension.umn.edu/environment/00023.pdf

This Sustainability Tip brought to you by the Coon Rapids Sustainability Commission.



Coon Rapids Recycling Center

1831 – 111th Avenue, Coon Rapids, MN 55433

(763) 767-6485

**Appliance and electronics recycling available
EVERY Saturday from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Calendar of Events

July 4-5	Recycling Center CLOSED
July 12	Mattress recycling (9 a.m. – 3 p.m.) Paper shredding (9 a.m. – Noon)
August 2	Mattress recycling (9 a.m. – 3 p.m.) Paper shredding (9 a.m. – Noon)
August 30	Recycling Center CLOSED
September 1	Recycling Center CLOSED
September 6	Mattress recycling (9 a.m. – 3 p.m.) Paper shredding (9 a.m. – Noon)
October 4	Mattress recycling (9 a.m. – 3 p.m.) Paper shredding (9 a.m. – Noon)
November 1	Mattress recycling (9 a.m. – 3 p.m.) Paper shredding (9 a.m. – Noon)

*Furniture reuse events published earlier this year have been canceled. Please use this updated schedule.

Organic Food Waste Recycling

Reduce your trash and recycle your food waste!

The Coon Rapids Recycling Center accepts kitchen scraps, discarded leftovers, spoiled food and some paper products as part of its Organic Food Waste Recycling program. Organic material **MUST** be brought to the Recycling Center in the approved organic blue bags available at the recycling center (small fee applies for bags). If you would like to participate in this program, you must sign up with the Recycling Coordinator, Colleen Sinclair by calling 763-767-6485. Open to Coon Rapids residents only.

Events

Summer in the City Neighborhood Meetings

Summer is here and the "Summer in the City" neighborhood meetings are about to begin! Councilmembers and staff invite you to come out to one of the upcoming events at a park near you. This annual series is a great opportunity to meet your councilmembers and talk with City staff about projects going on in your neighborhood and throughout the city.

Event Schedule

Tuesday, June 24
Sunrise Pond Park, 125 – 124th Lane

Tuesday, July 22
Peppermint Stick Park, 11480 Raven Street

Tuesday, July 29
Lions Coon Creek Park, 1664 – 119th Ave

Tuesday, August 26
Riverwind Park, 11747 Crocus Street

The events run from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Fire trucks, police cars, public works equipment and other displays from various city departments will also be at the events.



Despicable Me 2

Mark your calendar and plan to take part in the final "Movie in the Park" event, sponsored by the Coon Rapids Community Strength Foundation and the City of Coon Rapids.

Date: Friday, August 8

Time: 6:30 p.m. – Food for sale, activities for kids

8:30 p.m. – Movie begins

Where: Sand Creek Park, Softball Field 2

Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy this FREE movie!

Starting at 6:30 p.m., inflatable bouncers and other activities will be available for a small fee. Concession stand will be operated by the North Star Lions Club.

Summer Concerts

The Coon Rapids Arts Commission is proud to present the Performing Arts Series: Thursday Nites LIVE! at the Dam.

June 12 Sherwin Linton & the Cotton Kings - Country

June 19 Erin Schwab - Cabaret

June 26 Minneapolis Commodores - Barbershop

July 10 MN Sinfonia - Symphony (Sponsored by Pentair Foundation)

July 17 Ecuador Manta - Ecuadorian

July 24 D.L. Cajun Band - Cajun

July 31 Holy Rocka Rollaz - 50's

August 7 The Tony Garry Band - Variety

August 16 Rockie Lynne - Country (Location: Sand Creek Park instead of the Coon Rapids Dam)

Concerts are possible thanks to a generous donation from Shortstop Bar & Grill (with locations in Coon Rapids and Fridley).

The concerts take place at the Coon Rapids Dam each Thursday night at 7 p.m. at the performance pavilion, rain or shine. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy an evening of FREE entertainment. Anoka County Parks waives the \$5.00 parking fee for the evening. Food is also available for purchase.

Service Directory

Police and Fire: 911

City Center:
763-755-2880

Assessing:
763-767-6446

Building Inspections:
763-767-6476

Bunker Hills Golf Club:
763-755-4141

CTN Studios: (Cable TV Dept.)
763-767-6525

Civic Center:
763-767-6522

Code Enforcement:
763-767-6470

Coon Rapids Ice Center:
763-951-7222

Engineering Department:
763-767-6465

Fire Administration:
763-767-6429

Job Hotline:
763-767-6597

Planning and Zoning:
763-767-6430

Police Administration:
763-767-6481

Public Works:
763-767-6462

Senior Services:
763-767-6473

Utility Billing:
763-767-6438

Fax:
763-767-6491

General questions:
mail@coonrapidsmn.gov

Newsletter comments & information:
Stephanie Ring
Communications & Mktg Coordinator
763-767-6582
sring@coonrapidsmn.gov

This is the official newsletter of the City of Coon Rapids which is distributed to all homes and businesses in the City. This newsletter is printed on recycled paper containing at least 30% post-consumer paper fibers using soy-based ink. (Circulation 25,909)

